

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

### **Regarding the Objections to the Drawings:**

Substitute drawings are filed herewith which have been corrected as required on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action.

### **Regarding the Objections to the Specification:**

The reference numeral error noted by the Examiner has been corrected, along with a formatting error in the same paragraph noted during preparation of this response.

A new Abstract is submitted herewith in proper form.

No new matter has been introduced by any of these changes.

### **Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-21 remain pending. Rejected claims 1-6 have been retained without change (along with allowed claims 7-21) as it is believed that they are patentable over the prior art for the reasons stated below.

### **Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 7-21.

### **Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:**

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected as anticipated by Kuroda U.S. Patent 5,742,183 (Kuroda). In the Examiner's explanation of the rejection of claim 1 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, he states that Kuroda's first embodiment (shown in Fig. 3A) teaches:

“... a level shifting device (MN1) that is turned on to make an output transition ... and feedback circuitry (MN2, MP2) that obtains a feedback signal indicating that the level shifting device has made the output transition and that turns off the level shifting device in response to the feedback signal.”

and refers to column 5, lines 12-54, as supporting the rejection. However, careful consideration of the cited text, and in particular, of column 5, lines 24-30, reveals that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted the operation of the Kuroda device. Rather, as stated in the patent, after transistor  $M_{N1}$  is turned on (to make the output transition) by an H level signal at terminal  $S_1$ , transistor  $M_{N2}$  is turned on and transistors  $M_{P1}$  and  $M_{P2}$  are turned off. This, in turn, keeps the gate of level shifting transistor  $M_{N1}$  high, and *the transistor stays on*. Thus, claim 1, which calls for

... feedback circuitry that obtains a feedback signal indicating that the level shifting device has made the output transition and *that turns off the level shifting device* in response to the feedback signal.

is not anticipated by the embodiment shown in Fig. 3A of reference.

Similarly, since the level shifting device  $M_{N1}$  of Kuroda's second embodiment (Fig. 4A) functions in the same manner as in the first embodiment, claim 1 is also not anticipated by the second embodiment.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on allowable claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the reasons stated above. In addition, these claim recite features which, in combination with the features of their respective parent claims are neither taught nor suggested in the Kuroda patent.

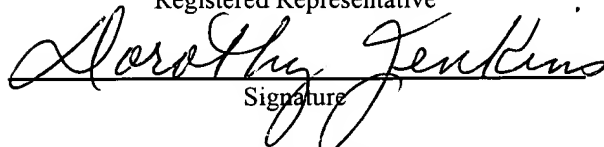
In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV 343678305 US with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 23, 2004:

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

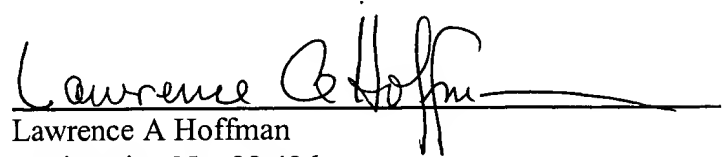
  
Signature

January 23, 2004

Date of Signature

LAH:sks

Respectfully submitted,

  
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